

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 00753 180204Z

ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, JA

SUBJECT: SEN. STONE GETS HELP FOR FLORIDA ORANGES

1. SUMMARY. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OFFERED TO POSITION THE 7,500-TON ADDITIONAL ANNUAL ORANGE QUOTA IN APRIL AND MAY TO PERMIT SALE OF FLORIDA ORANGES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MEETING JAN. 17 WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY NAKAGAWA, SEN. STONE OUTLINED SOME OF HIS THOUGHTS CONCERNING THE TRADE PACKAGE CONCLUDED LAST WEEK AND THE PROBABLY CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO THE PACKAGE. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE LOWER HOUSE OF CONGRESS IS MADE UP OF URBAN REPRESENTATION WITH LESS INTEREST IN AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS WHEREAS THE SENATE HAS A STRONGER AGRICULTURAL INTEREST AND COULD REVERSE HOUSE ACTION CALLING FOR PROTECTIVE TRADE MEASURES. SEN. STONE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WANTED TO BE IN A POSITION TO DEFEND THE TRADE PACKAGE WITH HIS CONSTITUENTS AS WELL AS HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE. HOWEVER, TO DO SO HE FELT HE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE SOME CONSIDERATION FOR FLORIDA ORANGES, HARVESTING OF WHICH IS COMPLETED BY

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 00753 180204Z

MAY EACH YEAR. WITH THIS IN MIND HE SUGGESTED THAT SOME SYSTEM MIGHT BE CONSIDERED FOR ISSUING AT LEAST A PART OF THE ADDITIONAL ORANGE QUOTA THAT EMERGED FROM THE STRAUSS NEGOTIATIONS DURING APRIL AND MAY TO GIVE FLORIDA ORANGES A BETTER COMPETITIVE POSITION. THIS WOULD PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO BE ACTIVE IN DEFENDING THE TRADE PACKAGE AND OPPOSING RESTRICTIVE TRADE LEGISLATION IN GENERAL, AND GIVEN HIS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS HE

COULD PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE.

3. IN RESPONSE, MINISTER NAKAGAWA PRESENTED A ROUGH CHART WHICH HE HAD PREPARED DURING THE SNEATOR'S PRESENTATION SHOWING THE SEASONAL PATTERN OF THE QUOTA AND QUOTA INCREASES. THE MINISTER SUGGESTED THAT HIS MINISTRY WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER ALLOCATING THE 7,500 TON INCREASE IN THE ANNUAL QUOTA TO APRIL AND MAY. SENIOR MINISTRY STAFF PRESENT INCLUDING IMAMURA, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU AND KOJIMA, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BUREAU AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

4. SEN. STONE WELCOMED THIS FORTHRIGHT APPROACH BY THE MINISTER TO PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FLORIDA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JAPANESE FRESH ORANGE MARKET. HE ASSURED THE MINISTER THAT WITH THIS RESPONSE HE COULD GO BACK TO THE UNITED STATES AND FULLY SUPPORT THE TRADE PACKAGE.
SHERMAN

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